

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2017, I was absent from the House and missed Roll Call Votes 88 through 92.

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 88, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 89, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 99, providing for consideration of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, and H.J. Res. 42, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to drug testing of unemployment compensation applicants, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 90, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 91, on agreeing to the resolution, H.Res. 116, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 66, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by States for non-governmental employees and H.J. Res. 67, Disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to savings arrangements established by qualified State political subdivisions for non-governmental employees, I would have voted "No."

Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 92, on passage of H.R. 428—Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act, I would have voted "No."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 89, 90 and 91 on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. At the time, and at the request of the President, I was attending the swearing-in ceremony of VA Secretary Shulkin. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on roll call votes 89, 90 and 91.

HONORING INVESTMENTS IN RECRUITING AND EMPLOYING AMERICAN MILITARY VETERANS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 13, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 244, the Honoring Investments

in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act or the HIRE Vets Act."

H.R. 244 encourages effective, voluntary private sector investments to recruit, employ, and retain men and women who have served in the United States military with annual presidential awards to private sector employers recognizing such efforts.

H.R. 244 directs the Department of Labor to establish a HIRE Vets Medallion Program to solicit voluntary information from employers for purposes of recognizing, by the award of a HIRE Vets Medallion, verified efforts by these employers to:

1. Recruit, employ, and retain veterans
2. Provide community and charitable services supporting the veteran community.

The President shall annually present the medallion and corresponding certificate to recipients at a time to coincide with the annual commemoration of Veterans Day.

Two levels of medallions shall be established, large and small employers, to be designated the Gold HIRE Vets Medallion and the Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion. The bill prescribes awards criteria.

Beginning two years after enactment of this bill, the Secretary of Labor shall submit annual reports on fees, program costs, the number of applications, and the medallions awarded, including the name and medallion level of each recipient.

RECOGNIZING DR. DALE MCCALL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dale McCall on being inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Dr. McCall has made a great impact on the agricultural industry throughout his life. He devoted 40 years to agricultural education after receiving his bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. degrees from Colorado State University. He has helped the next generation of agriculture producers through his roles as a teacher, Agricultural Education staff member, and even Executive Director of Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

Not only has Dr. McCall given his time to agricultural education, he also has first-hand experience working on the farm. He and his wife have grown a variety of crops including oats, wheat, and milo. He is the current president of the Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union and has received numerous awards for his various agriculture and educational achievements.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Dr. McCall pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry

makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Dr. Dale McCall for his accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALLEN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER MARINE SERGEANT (SGT) DONNIE LEO FORD LEVENS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Marine Sergeant (SGT) Donnie Leo Ford Levens who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation on February 17, 2006, during Operation Enduring Freedom. SGT Levens was killed when two CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters crashed into the Gulf of Aden near Ras Siyyan, northern Djibouti, while on a training mission in the Godoria Range area.

SGT Levens of Long Beach, MS, was assigned to the Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464, Marine Air Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, II Marine Expeditionary Force, New River, N.C. He was deployed to Djibouti as part of the U.S.-led Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, a counterterrorism force. SGT Levens was an Aircraft Ordnance Technician.

SGT Levens's mother Margaret and brother Matt honored SGT Levens by completing their studies at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in 2006. Margaret Levens said Donnie's courage inspired her to go back to school and earn a degree. President George W. Bush delivered the commencement address at the graduation ceremony held in Biloxi. President Bush praised SGT Levens for his service and sacrifice.

SGT Levens will be remembered for his courage and determination to keep America safe.

HONORING MR. RICHARD BIEDENBACH AS VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Richard Biedenbach for his achievement as Veteran of the Year for 2016 by the Greater Canton Veterans Council.

Upon his graduation from Central Catholic High School in Canton, Ohio, Mr. Biedenbach joined the Army in the 1960s, where he was stationed in Berlin, Germany at the height of the Cold War. As a photographer in West Germany, Mr. Biedenbach monitored East German activity near the border between East

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